

Appln No. 10/658,501

Reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 Expedited Procedure Examining Group 1733.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

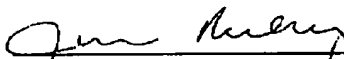
Claims 9-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The preamble of claim 9 has been amended to broaden the scope of claim coverage.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jackson et al. (US 4,341,119). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Claim 9 has been amended to include a tire building drum having an outer surface with one or more circumferential grooves. Support for this claim amendment can be found in paragraph 62 and Figure 3a. Jackson does not teach a tire building drum having one or more circumferential grooves.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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